

Sinclair
Broadcasting's
decision to force
their stations to
air an anti-Kerry
documentary days
before the election
is a clear example
of the dangers of
media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the
public airwaves free
of charge, and is
obligated by law to
serve the public
interest. But when
large companies
control the
airwaves, we get
more of what's good
for the bottom line
and less of what we
need for our
democracy. Instead
of something
produced at "News
Central" far away,
it's more important
that we see real
people from our own
communities and more
substantive news
about issues that
matter.

Sinclair's violation
of federal election
law via an enormous
in-kind contribution
to the Bush campaign
and their abuse of
their broadcast
license for partisan
attacks masquerading
as news must not go
unpunished or
under-punished.
Unless Sinclair
faces significant
penalties for its
transgressions,
large media
conglomerates like
Sinclair will
continue to violate
the laws and
regulations designed
to protect the
public interest.

Sinclair's actions
show why we need to
strengthen media
ownership rules, not

weaken them. They
show why the license
renewal process
needs to involve
more than a returned
postcard. Thank you.